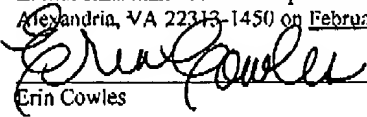


**CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING**

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Erin Cowles**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB - 8 2006****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/810,871 Confirmation No. 7472  
Applicant : Eldridge et al.  
Filed : March 16, 2001  
TC/A.U. : 2833  
Examiner : Alexander Gilman

Docket No. : P70-US

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT**

To Whom It May Concern:

In response to the most recent Office Action of February 3, 2005 in the above identified application, Applicants mailed a timely Notice of Appeal with a certificate of mailing dated August 3, 2005, which was received by the US Patent and Trademark Office ("PTO") on August 8, 2005. The PTO nevertheless inadvertently issued a Notice of Abandonment dated August 10, 2005, and Applicants filed a Request For Reconsideration Of Holding Of Abandonment dated October 7, 2005. Although still awaiting a decision on the Request For Reconsideration of Holding Of Abandonment, Applicants file this Amendment along with a Request For Continued Examination in anticipation that the Request For Reconsideration Of Holding Of Abandonment will be granted and the abandoned status of the application will be withdrawn due to the timely filed Notice of Appeal. Accordingly, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the list of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

Page 1 of 15

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Feb. 8.2006 4:29PM KIRTON & MCCONKIE

No.6452 P.9

Appl. No. 09/810,871  
Amdt. dated February 8, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005